## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ROBERT F. SKEFFERY,	)	
Petitioner,	)	2:11cv296
	)	Electronic Filing
V.	)	-
	)	
COMMONWEALTH OF	)	Judge Cercone
PENNSYLVANIA, et al.	)	Magistrate Judge Mitchell
Respondents.	ĵ	_

## **MEMORANDUM ORDER**

On March 7, 2011, Robert F. Skeffery filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus, challenging his conviction, upon a plea of guilty, to misdemeanor charges of intentional possession of a controlled substance and the sentence of nine months of probation, imposed by the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County on July 13, 2000. The essence of the petition is that this long-expired conviction is being used to support his detention by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and that he was denied the effective assistance of counsel when he was not informed of the deportation consequences of a guilty plea, in violation of Padilla v. Kentucky, 130 S.Ct. 1473 (2010).

On August 17, 2011, Magistrate Judge Mitchell filed a Report and Recommendation (Docket No. 14), in which he recommended that the petition be dismissed for the following reasons: 1) the petition is time barred because Petitioner did not seek relief for over ten years after his conviction became final on August 12, 2000; 2) Petitioner is not "in custody" with respect to the conviction he is challenging; and 3) he has failed to exhaust state court remedies. On September 23, 2011, Petitioner filed objections to the Report and Recommendation (Docket No. 16).

In his objections, Petitioner moves for the issuance of a writ of coram nobis which, he contends, is not subject to the procedural bars of timeliness and the "in custody" requirement. However, the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has held that "coram nobis is not available in a federal court as a means of attack on a state court criminal judgment." Obado v. State of New Jersey, 328 F.3d 716, 718 (3d Cir. 2003). The court concluded that the petitioner "can seek coram nobis relief only in state court." Id. Not surprisingly, all of Petitioner's citations are to federal cases brought by prisoners attacking federal convictions outside of the limitations of 28 U.S.C. § 2255. They do not provide Petitioner with an exception to the exhaustion requirement, nor do they support his claim to pursue a writ of coram nobis in federal court attacking a state court conviction.

AND NOW, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of <del>September</del>, 2011,

IT IS ORDERED that the petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by petitioner Robert F. Skeffery (Docket No. 1) is dismissed and, because reasonable jurists could not conclude that a basis for appeal exists, and a certificate of appealability is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk shall mark this case CLOSED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Rule 4(a)(1) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure if the petitioner desires to appeal from this Order he must do so within thirty (30) days by filing a notice of appeal as provided in Rule 3, Fed. R. App. P.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Report and Recommendation filed by Magistrate Judge Mitchell on August 17, 2011 is adopted as the opinion of this Court, as supplemented herein.

David Stewart Cercone United States District Judge

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cc: Robert F. Skeffery
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Metropolitan Correctional Center
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(Via First Class Mail)

Rusheen R. Pettit, Esquire (Via CM/ECF Electronic Mail)